

TrueNorth Community Services 2016 MEAP Grant

Grant Award: \$13,175,000

Service Area: TrueNorth's Michigan Service Territory: Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Schoolcraft, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Wexford counties.

Anticipated Reach: 9,222 Households

TrueNorth Community Services (TrueNorth) is providing energy assistance through its client-centered service delivery system called the empower Program – Your Energy, Your Solutions. The goal of the program is to: 1) move clients off assistance and toward self-sufficiency; 2) improve the effectiveness and efficiency of energy services to low-income households through innovative, cost efficient, evidence based strategies; 3) increase client accountability and responsible energy use; 4) provide energy education and optimization services; and 5) ensure safety for the authentically vulnerable.

Program Details

- Safety Service Phase – 64 counties; screening and payment assistance to ensure safety; informational services to help navigate low-income assistance program system changes; monthly energy efficiency newsletter with energy education, budgeting self-sufficiency guidance, and energy optimization.
- Self-Sufficiency Service Phase – Newaygo, Manistee, Lake, Benzie, Mason, Oceana, Alpena, Alcona and Montmorency counties previously served by TrueNorth. Preque Isle, Oscoda, Crawford, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Kalkaska and Muskegon were added to the 2016 grant year. In addition to services provided in Safety Service Phase participants will receive in-depth assessment and intensive case management for sustained self-sufficiency; participatory energy optimization DVD; energy optimization education and distribution of advanced energy optimization kits.
- Enhanced Self-Sufficiency Services – Newaygo County; in addition to services provided in Safety Service Phase and Self-sufficiency Services Phase participants will receive community and economic opportunities and leveraging resources; employment skill development services; focused collaborations; and increased social capital.
- No caps on the amount of assistance or on the number of assists. Each assist requires a new application.
- Propane Pilot – low-income household price protection strategies to secure propane at a lower cost.
- Continuing to enroll customers in Consumers Energy CARE 3.0 program
- For additional information call 1-855-300-8013, 231-355-5880, or visit TrueNorth's website at: www.truenorthservices.org (click on "Assistance" and then "Heating & Housing Assistance")

Additional Services Offered

- Food and medical programs
- Children's services
- Family and support programs
- Center for nonprofit housing
- Tax preparation
- Referral to local human service providers for low-income households outside Newaygo County

Partners

- DTE (energy optimization and education through ICF International)
- Consumers Energy (CARE, energy optimization and education)

Contact Information

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Michigan Energy Assistance Program - TrueNorth

